

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

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R 061041Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6011

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GREEK MAGAZINE

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR IVAN UDALTSOV GAVE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO "NEW GREECE", AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MONTHLY PUBLISHED BY THE ATHENS NEWSPAPER KATHIMERINI, WHICH APPEARED IN ITS AUGUST ISSUE. (WE ARE POUCHING A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT TO EUR/SE.)

2. UDALTSOV'S REMARKS ABOUT CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN WERE UNREMARKABLE AND ALONG STANDARD SOVIET LINES. ("THE MAIN AIM OF THE SOVIET UNION IS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION THAT PRESERVES THE INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS AS A UNIFIED STATE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RESPECTING ITS POLICY OF NON-ALLIANCE... IT IS NECESSARY TO GO BACK TO THE IDEA OF CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS...THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN THE (AEGEAN)

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REGION IS THE INTERFERENCE OF FORCES OUTSIDE THE COUNTRIES

CONCERNED...TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN AIMS AND AGGRESSIVE DESIRES.") ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS STATEMENT, IN REPLY TO A QUERY ABOUT THE WIDELY-CIRCULATED STORY IN GREECE THAT HE IS A KGB OFFICER, IS WORTHY OF NOTE: "I WAS NOT UPSET BY THESE REPORTS. THE KGB IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED ORGANIZATION SET UP BY LENIN TO PROTECT THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND THE SOVIET STATE, AND I WOULD HAVE FELT HONORED TO BE A MEMBER OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. AS IT HAPPENS I AM NOT AND REPORTS THAT I AM ARE A LIE."

3. COMMENT: ELSEWHERE IN THE INTERVIEW UDALTSOV DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FOLLOWS: "YOU SEE IN FRONT OF YOU A SOVIET COMMUNIST WHO WAS FORMED BY THE PARTY MILITANT." THE REPLY ON THE KGB INQUIRY WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT. IT IS ALSO ANOTHER INDICATION THAT UDALTSOV'S STYLE WILL BE RATHER UNAPPEALING TO THE WESTERN ORIENTED, RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP OF GREECE.
KUBISCH

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